



Professor Mary O'Kane
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Prof O'Kane,

Dartbrook Coal Mine – Modification 7 (DA 231-7-2000 MOD 7)

The Department has received an application from AQC Dartbrook Management Pty Ltd to modify the development consent for Dartbrook Coal Mine under the former section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The mine, which is located southwest of Aberdeen in the Upper Hunter Valley, has been in care and maintenance since 2006. The modification proposes to recommence underground mining on the site, using only bord and pillar mining methods, and with a varied coal clearance system.

During exhibition of the application, the Department received 42 objections, including an objection from Upper Hunter Shire Council. Under the Minister for Planning's delegation of 14 September 2011, the Independent Planning Commission of NSW must determine this application.

Based on its assessment, the Department considers that the modification is approvable, subject to imposing a strict and fully-updated set of contemporary conditions. To assist with your determination, I have enclosed the Department's assessment package.

If you have any further questions in relation to this matter, please contact Howard Reed, Director Resource Assessments on 9274 6308.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Ray
Deputy Secretary
Planning Services

28/01/2019